

Docket No.: 042390P7954

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Dedrick, et al.

Application No.: 09/541,391

Filed: March 31, 2000

For: Automated Volume License  
Agreement Method and Apparatus

Examiner: K. Abdi

Art Unit: 3621

OFFICIAL

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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AUG 08 2002

AMENDMENT

GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

In response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 26, 2002, please amend the above-identified Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

*Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 3-11 with:*

Since prior art methods of administering VLAs are manual, they also do not take advantage of recent advances in the technology for licensing software and other electronic products, including the use of electronic commerce to electronically manage and distribute licenses for software and other electronic products installed on remote computers. By not tracking the electronic purchase or distribution of a particular product, business administrators lose valuable opportunities for obtaining timely pricing discounts and controlling electronic asset costs by tracking and reconciling the electronic purchases of products sold under their VLAs.

*Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 12-24 with:*

Accordingly, a new approach for providing automated management of VLAs that facilitates timely discount pricing is desirable. An automated VLA can monitor purchases under the VLA in real-time and ensure that corporate customers 140 are always presented with the lowest possible cost products that are available under the terms of the VLA. An automated VLA can also enable publishers 110 to provide more up-to-date information about product offerings under the VLA, and enable distributors 120 and their corporate customers 140 to competitively